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ISSUE 51

SEPTEMBER 1992

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA

TURTLES



M I R A G E P U B L I S H I N G

CITY AT WAR



PART 2 OF 13

KEVIN EASTMAN/PETER LAIRD

STORY

JIM LAWSON
PENCILS

JIM LAWSON/PETER LAIRD

SCRIPT

KEITH AIKEN
INKS

MARY KELLEHER
LETTERS

With all of its conventions and special events, the summer has always been the most hectic time of the year for us. But because of issue 50 and the beginning of the City at War storyline, this year things have been even crazier than ever! We've been overwhelmed by your positive response to our return to the series and we have to admit that we're having a blast!

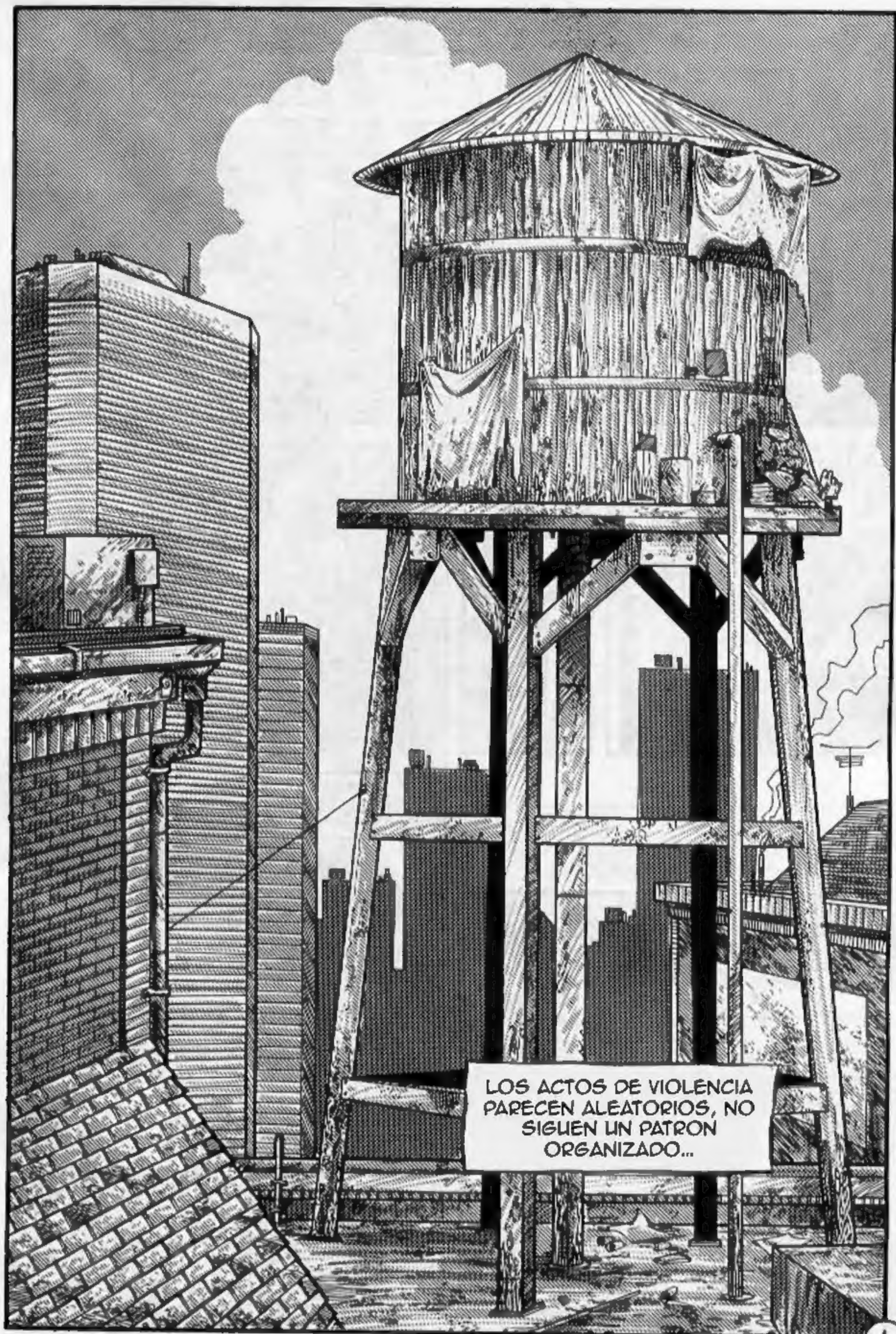
Banging heads on this storyline has been great. A lot of people have asked why we aren't drawing *all* the issues. The simple truth is that there just isn't enough time in the day for us to do that and still handle all the other things involved with the TMNT worldwide! Luckily our favorite Turtle artist (Jim Lawson!) works right here in the studio so we twisted his arm and he agreed to to pencil the whole series. We think that he and Keith are turning out some of the most exciting TMNT comics in quite a while, and we haven't even gotten to the good stuff yet!

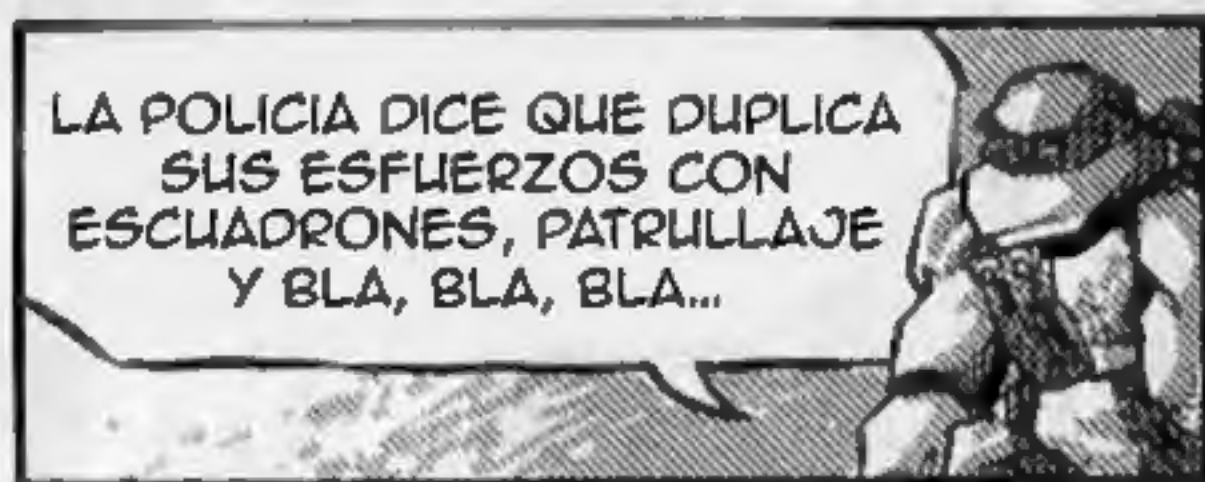
For those of you that need a regular dose of Eastman (Casey Jones) and Laird (Donatello) drawn comics, all you have to do is pick up any issue of Mirage's new title, *Plastron Cafe*. Check it out, it hits the stands starting in December.

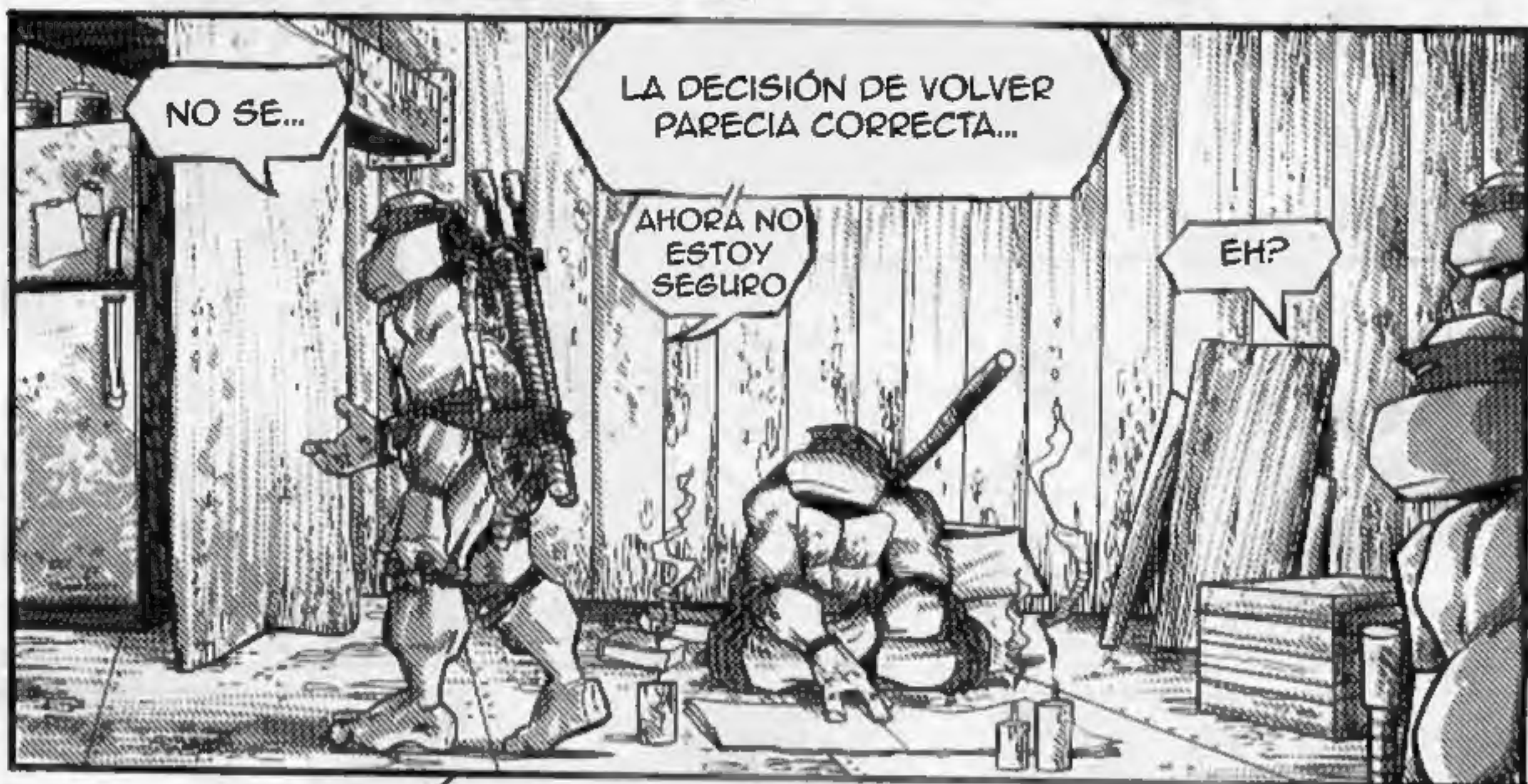
Later gang,

Kevin & Keith

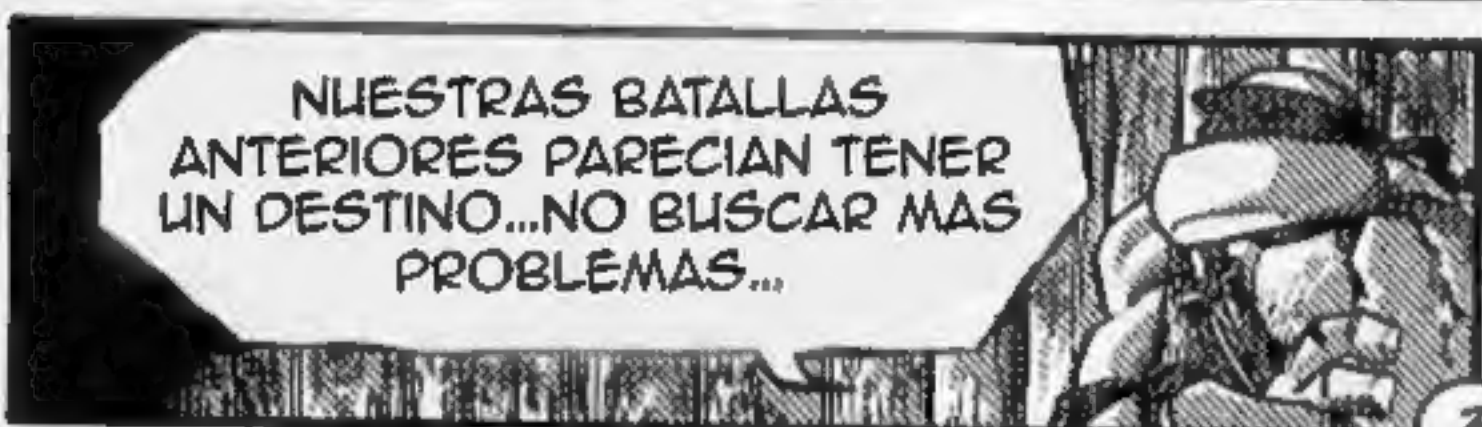


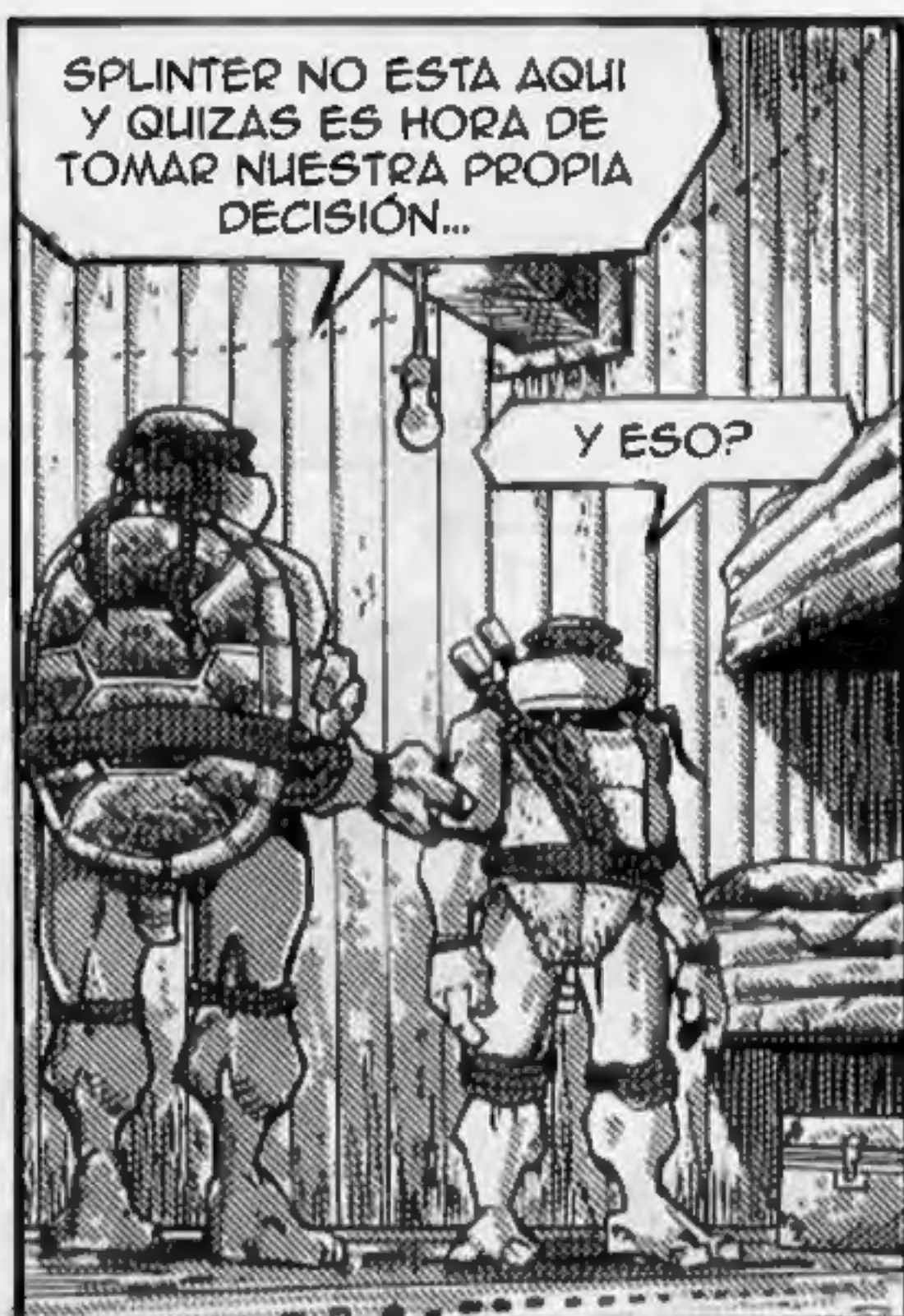






QUE CARAJOS NO ENTIENDEN? HAY CAOS POR DOQUIER Y ES EN PARTE A CAUSA DE QUE LEO MATO AL DESTRUCTOR











BIEN HECHO
JONES!



ABRIL...



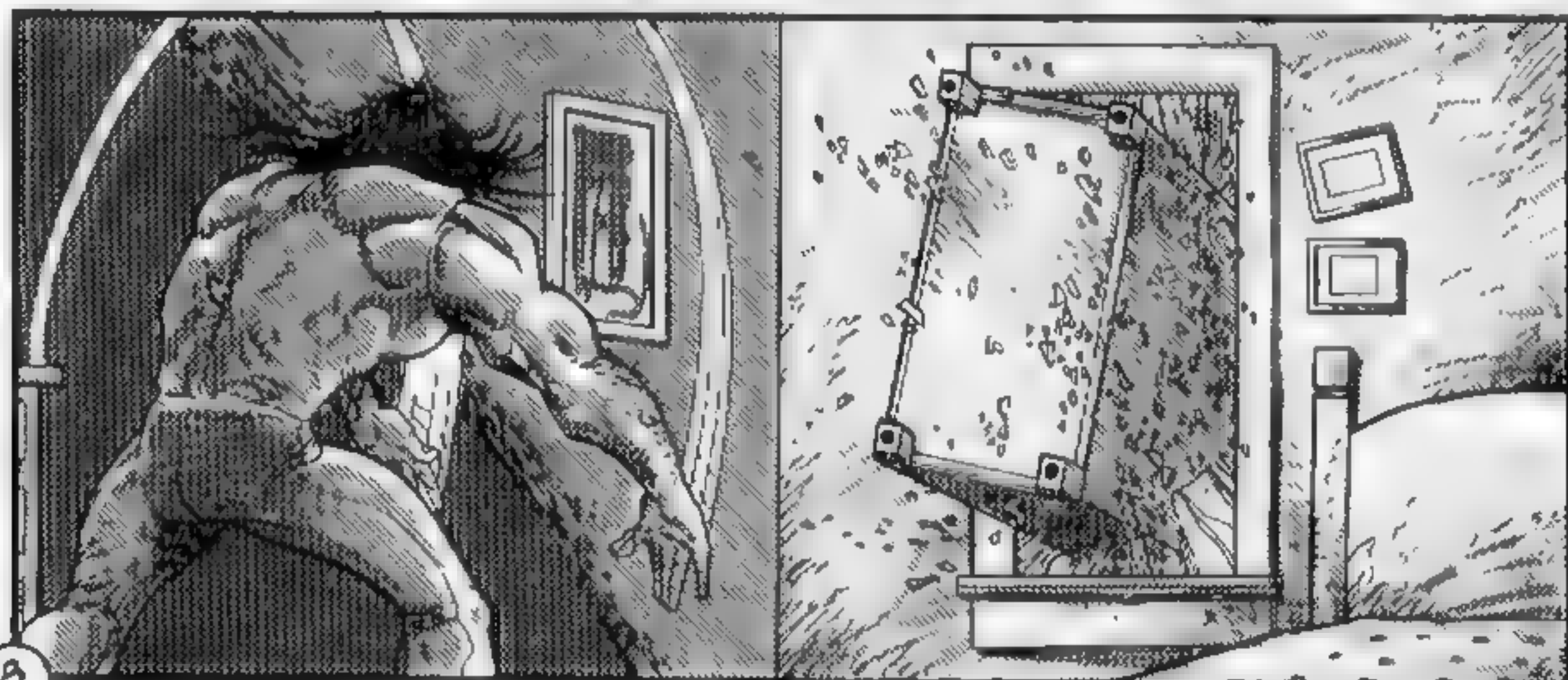
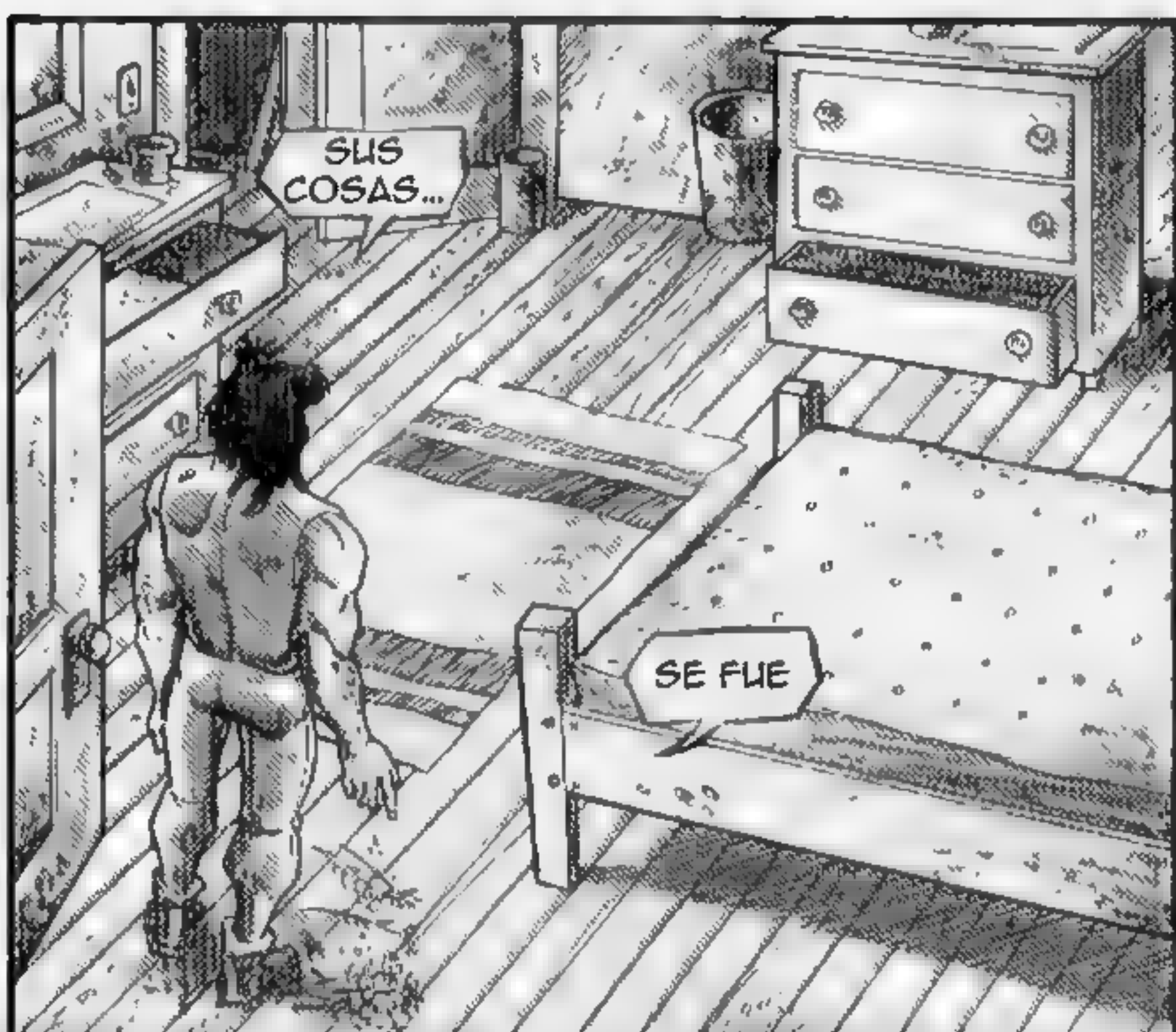
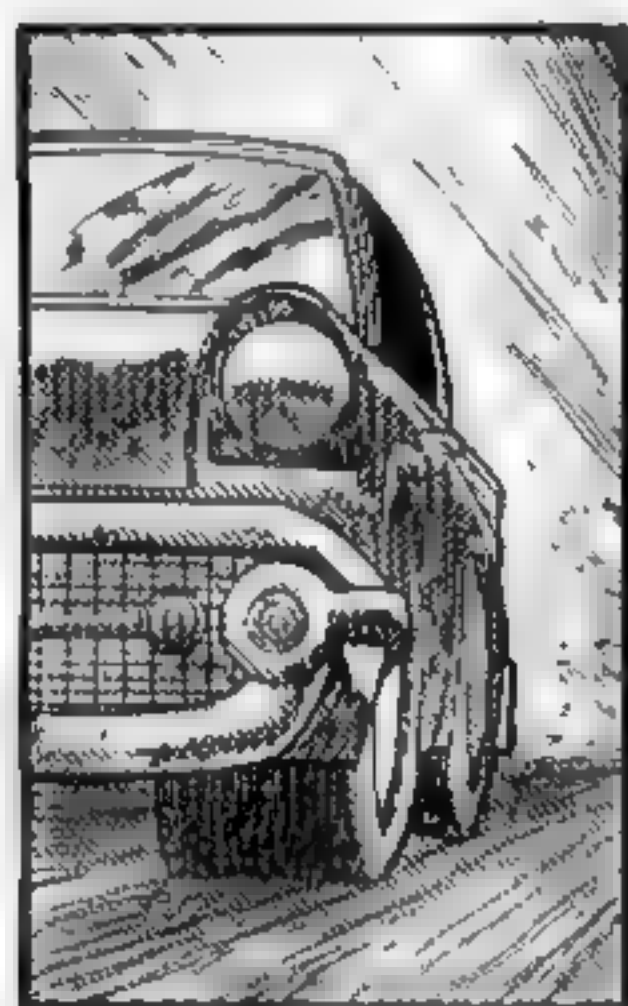
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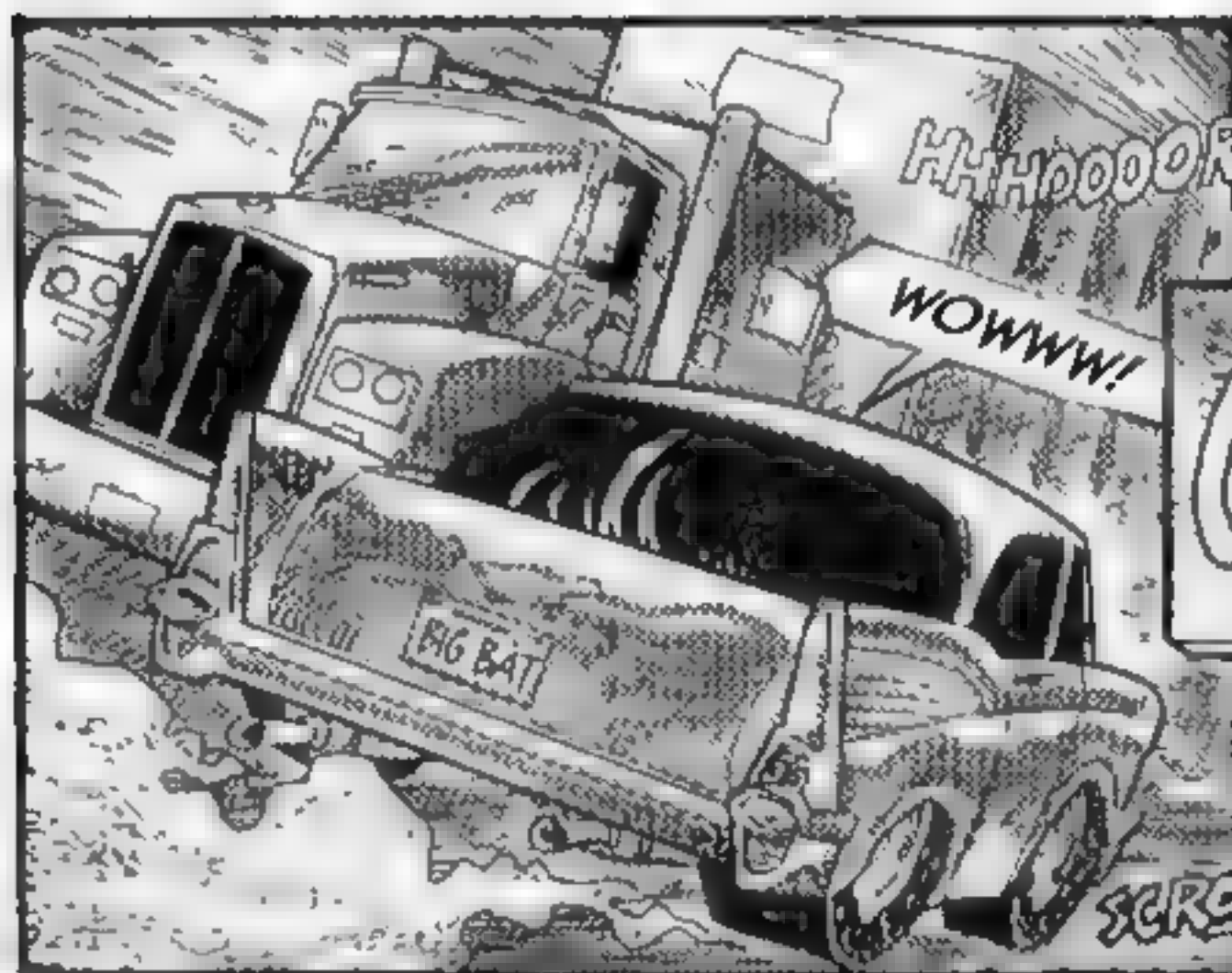


ESTAS
ARRIBA?



EH?





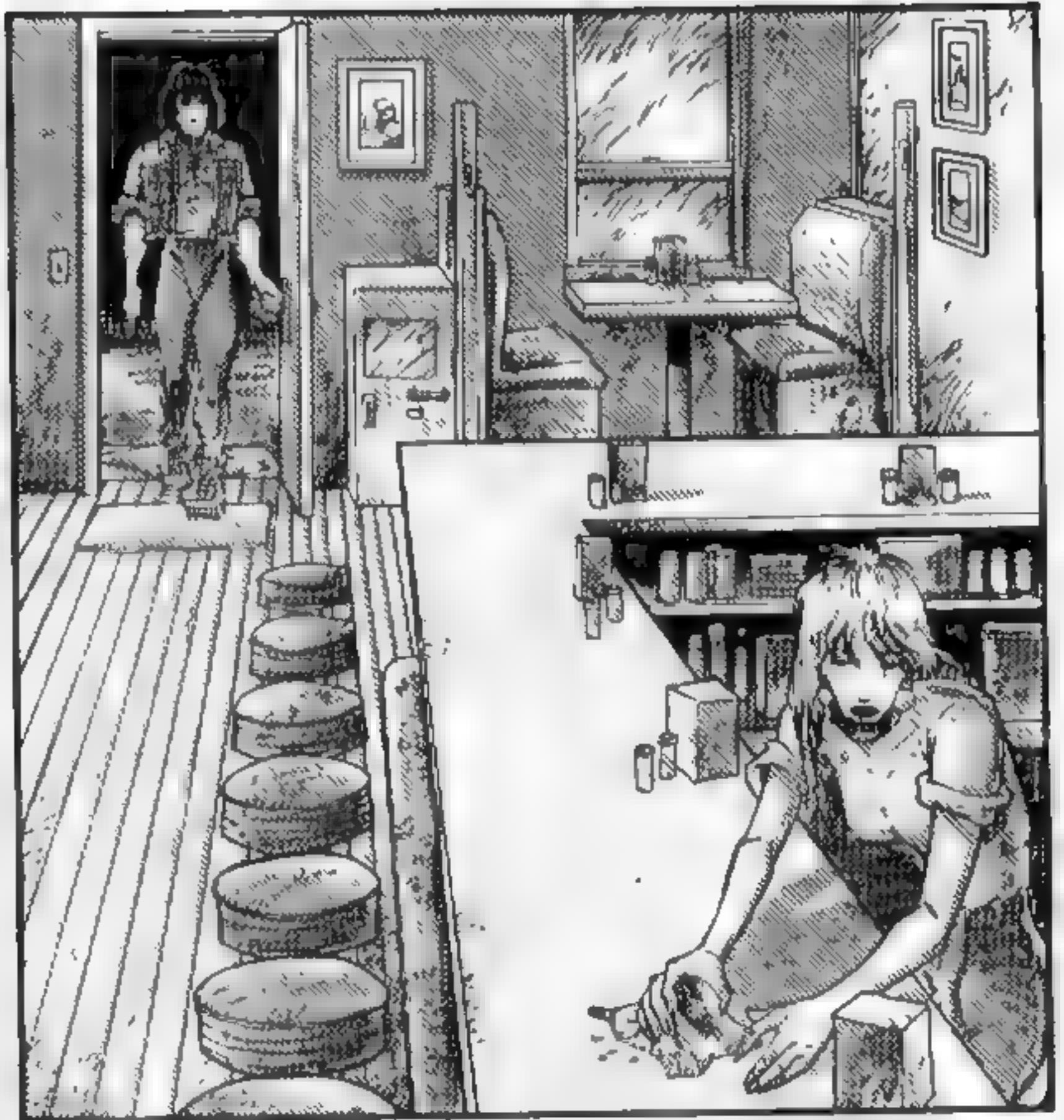
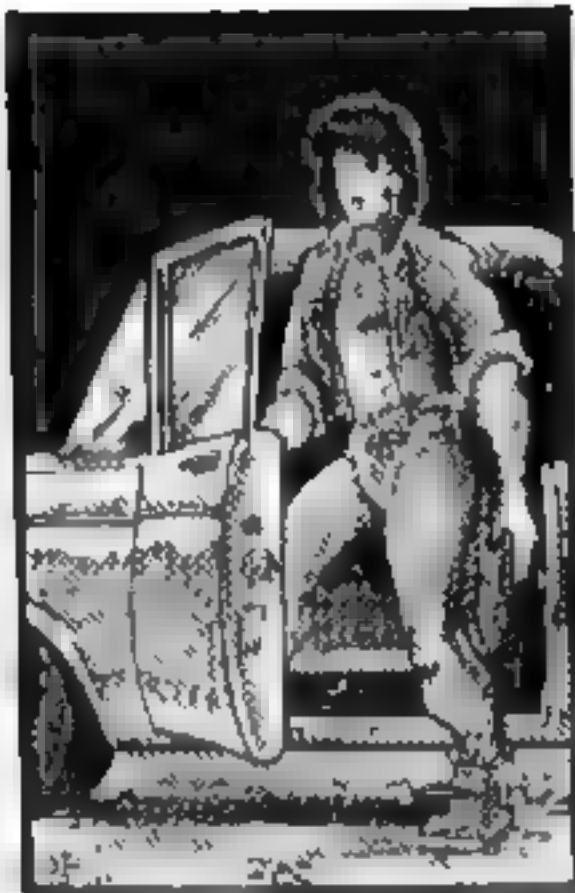
GRAHAM'S
GOODTIME GRILL

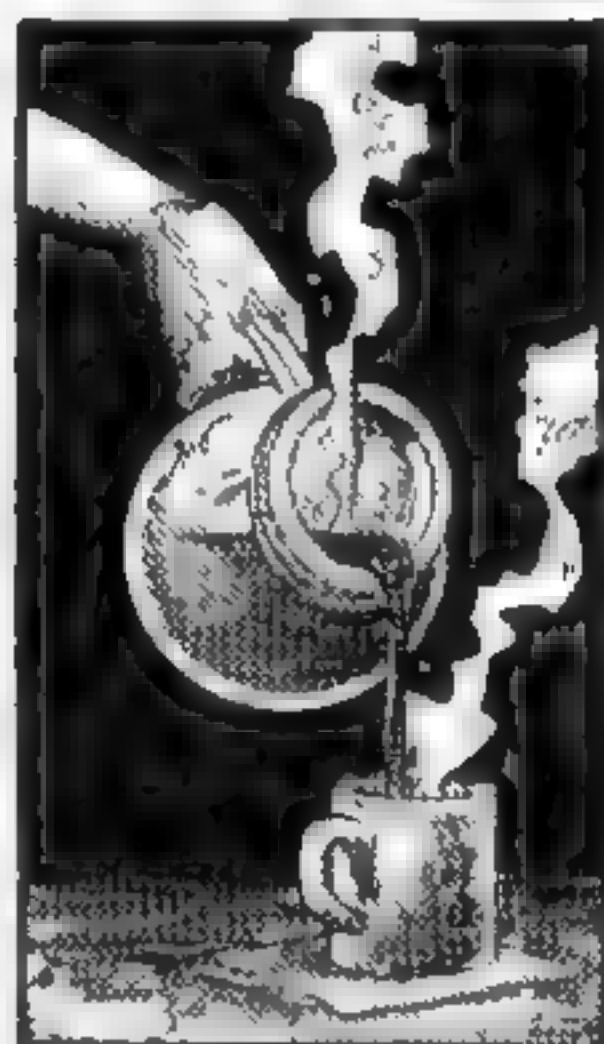
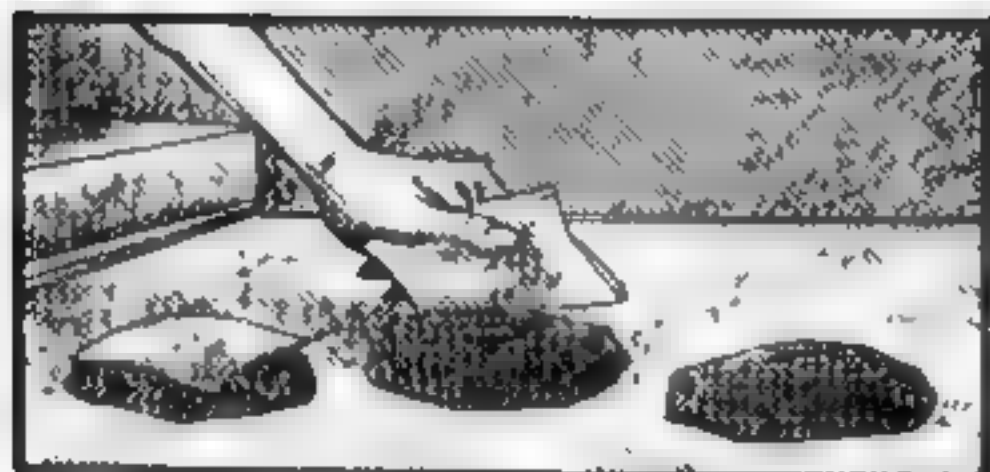
DAD
APPROVED

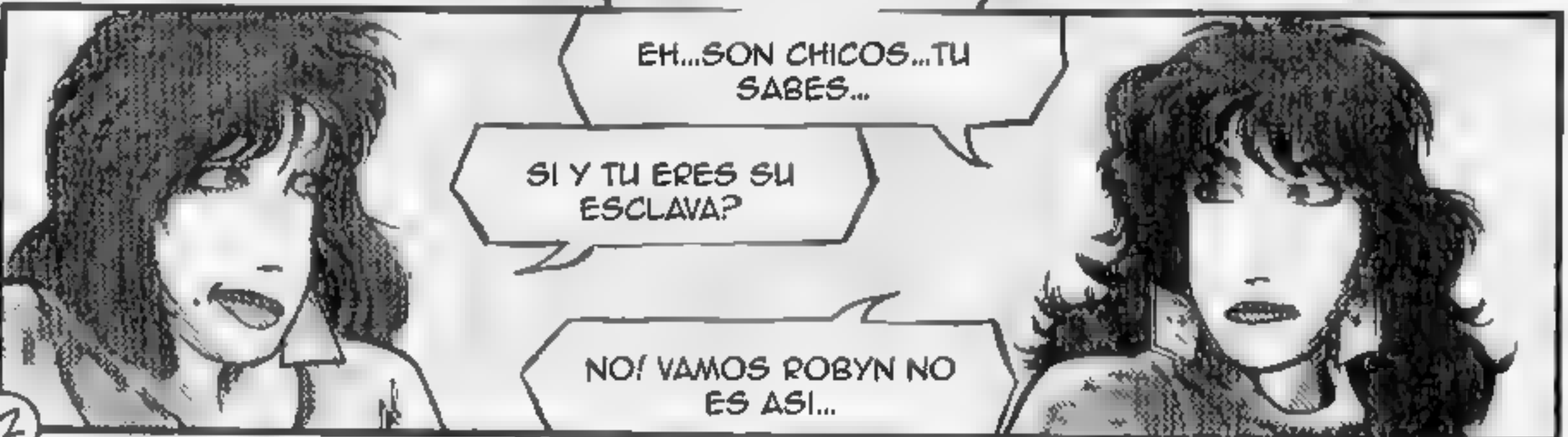
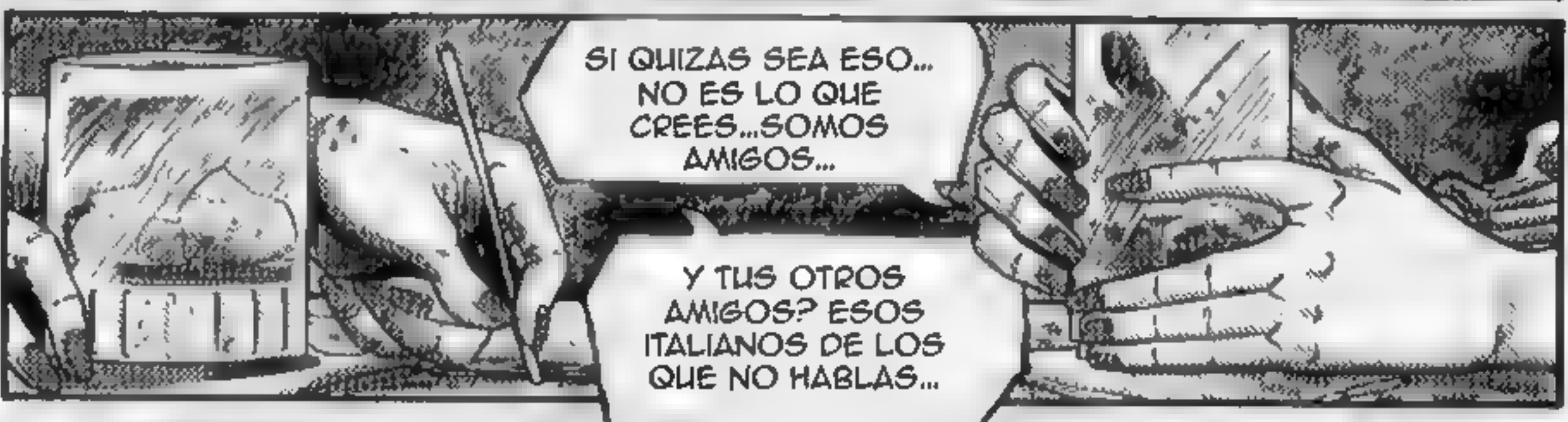


PARARE...TOMARE
CAFÉ...









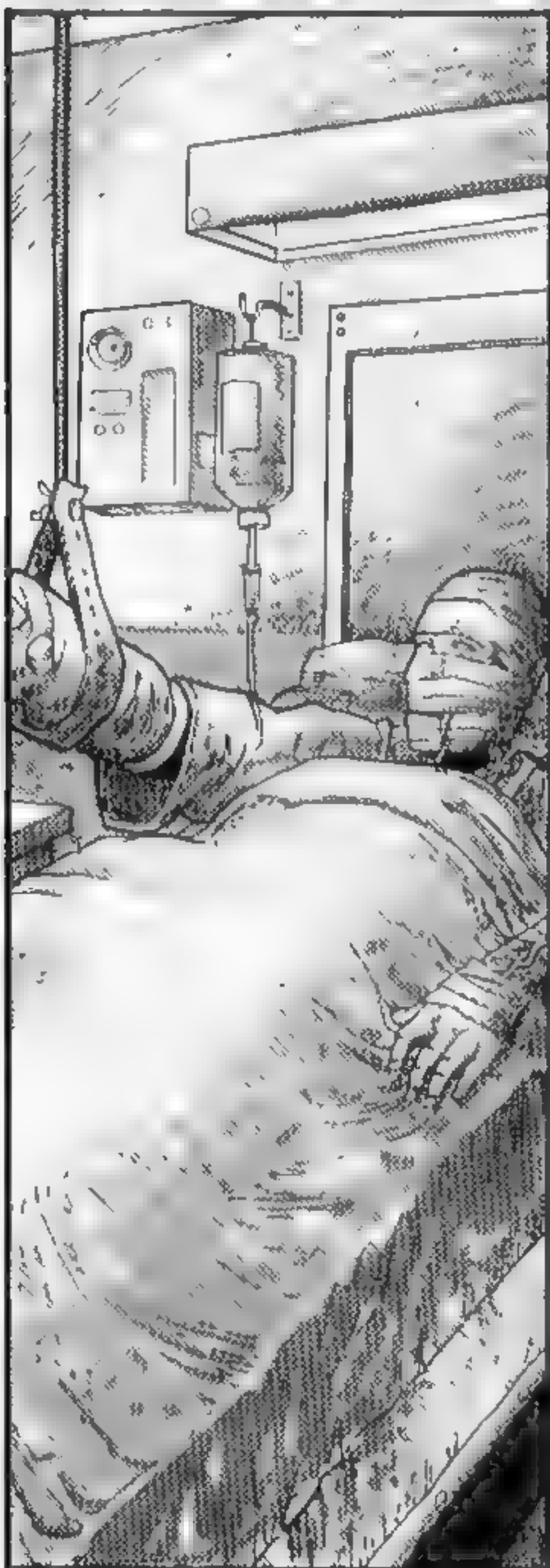




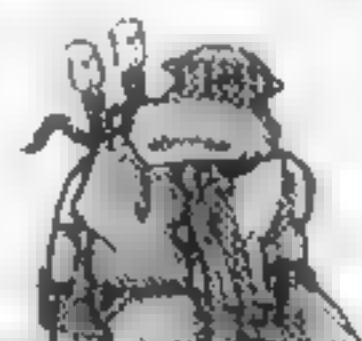
ESTO ERA UN
SEX SHOP?

"NOVEDADES ADULTAS DE
MURPHY" SEGÚN EL DIARIO...

SE PERDIO TODO



POR QUE LO HABRAN
QUEMADO?



NO LO SABEMOS...PERO
LO HICIERON SEGÚN EL
PATRON



NO SE A DONDE
LLEVA ESTO...QUE
SIGUE?



"LA MASACRE DEL
CASAMIENTO" AQUÍ
TENGO EL ARTICULO

VAMOS!



NO MAS GRACIAS...UNA
MAS Y NO LLEGO



JA, JA! ERES
GRACIOSO
CASEY!

BUENO LLEGO LA HORA DE
IRSE...GRACIAS POR TODO



TEN CUIDADO Y SI
VUELVES PASA POR
AQUI!!



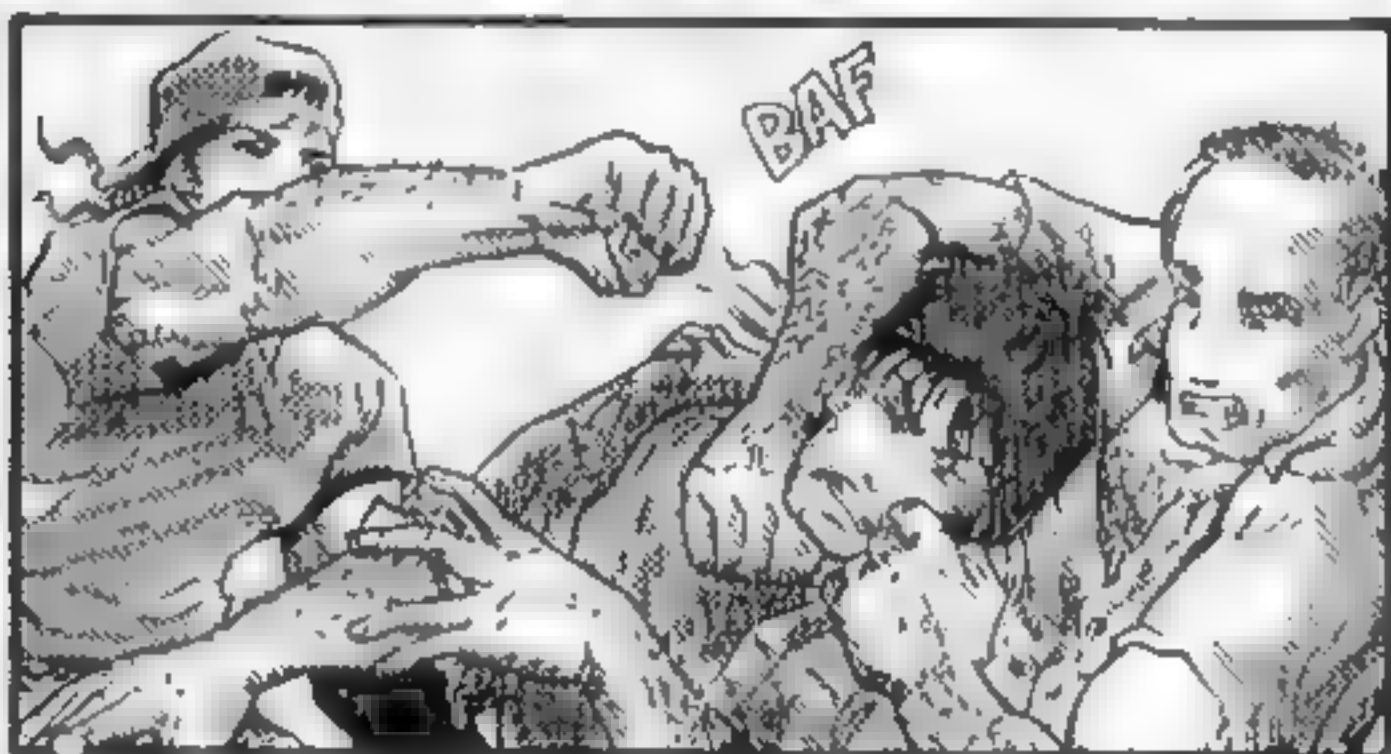
ESO SEGURO
GABRIELLE...
CHAU!

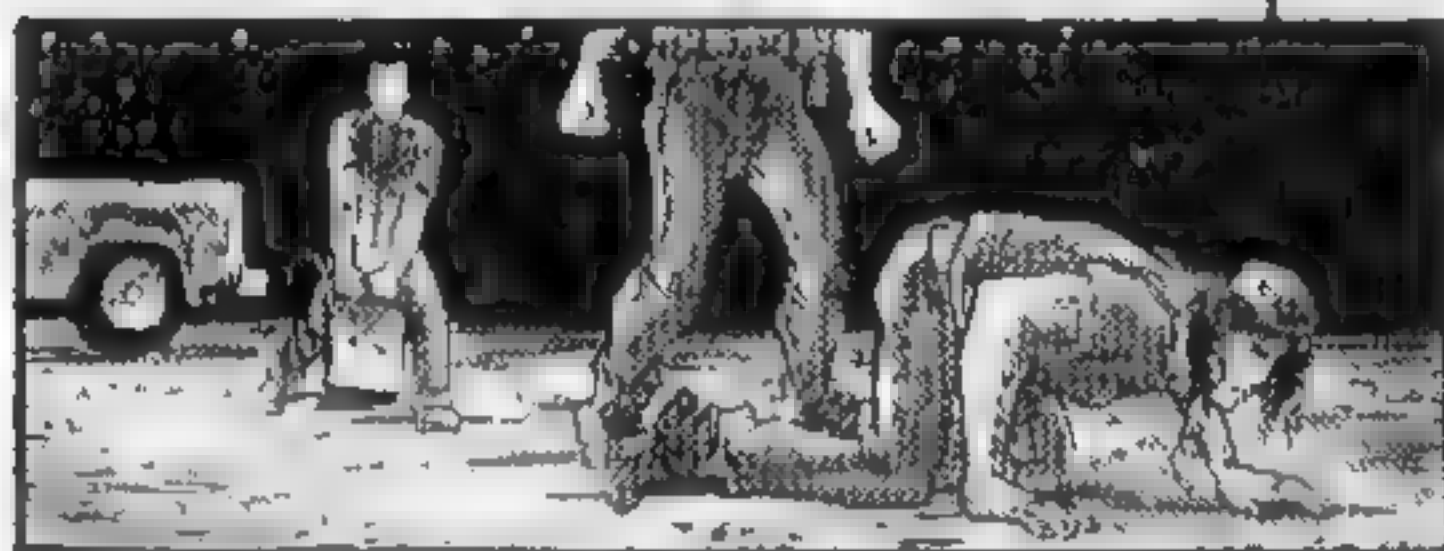
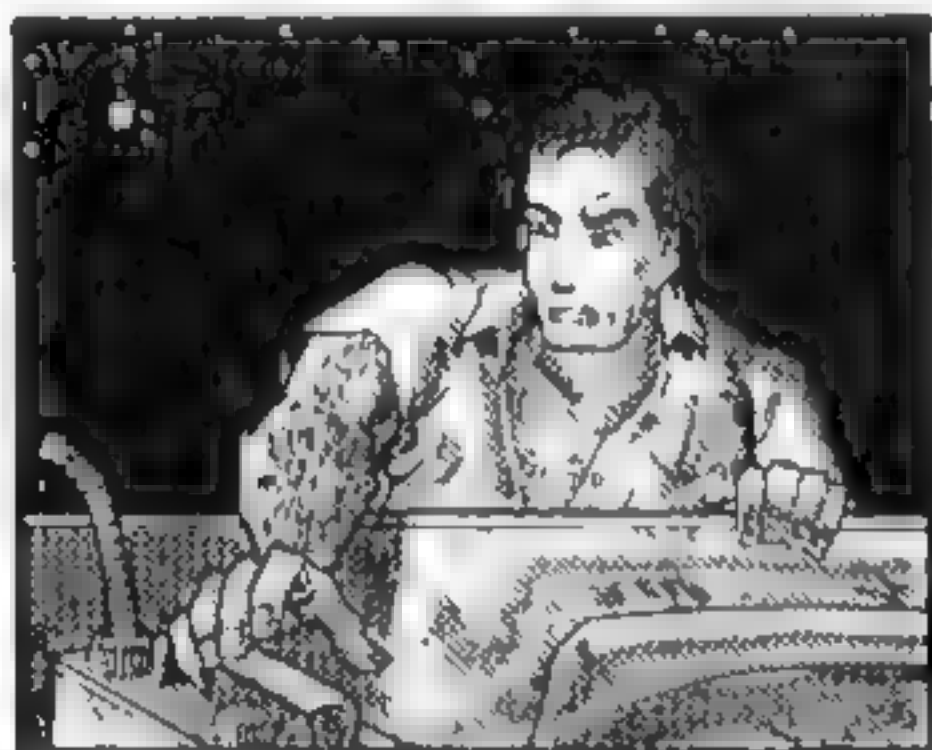
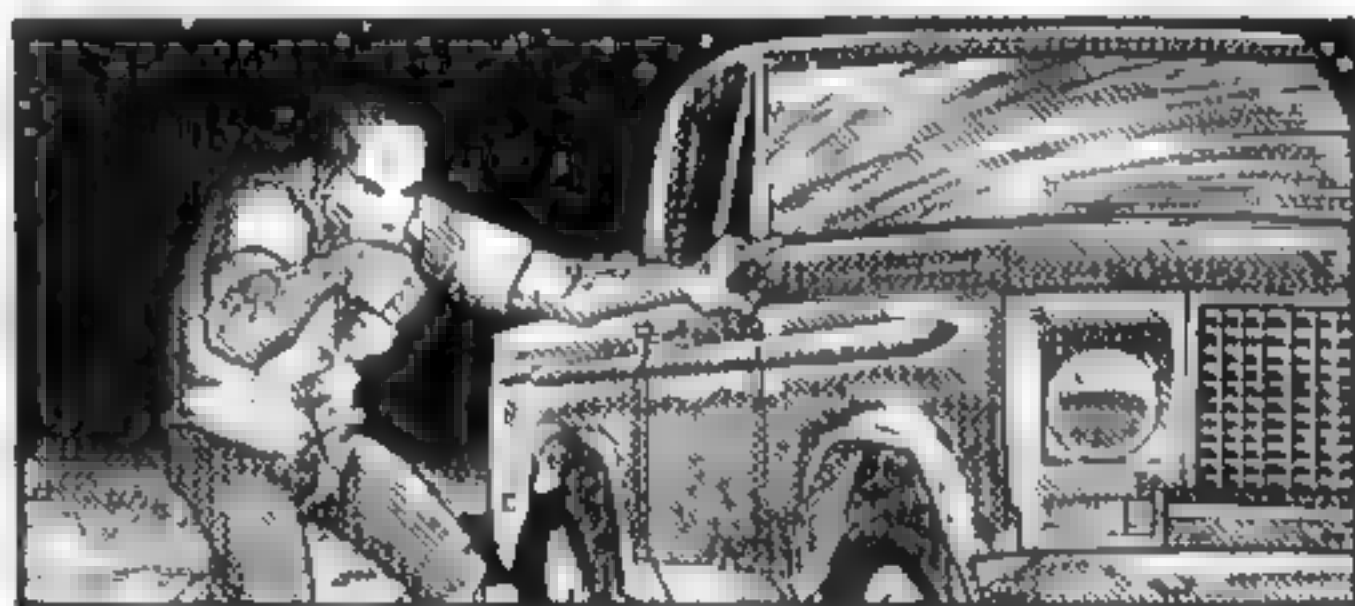
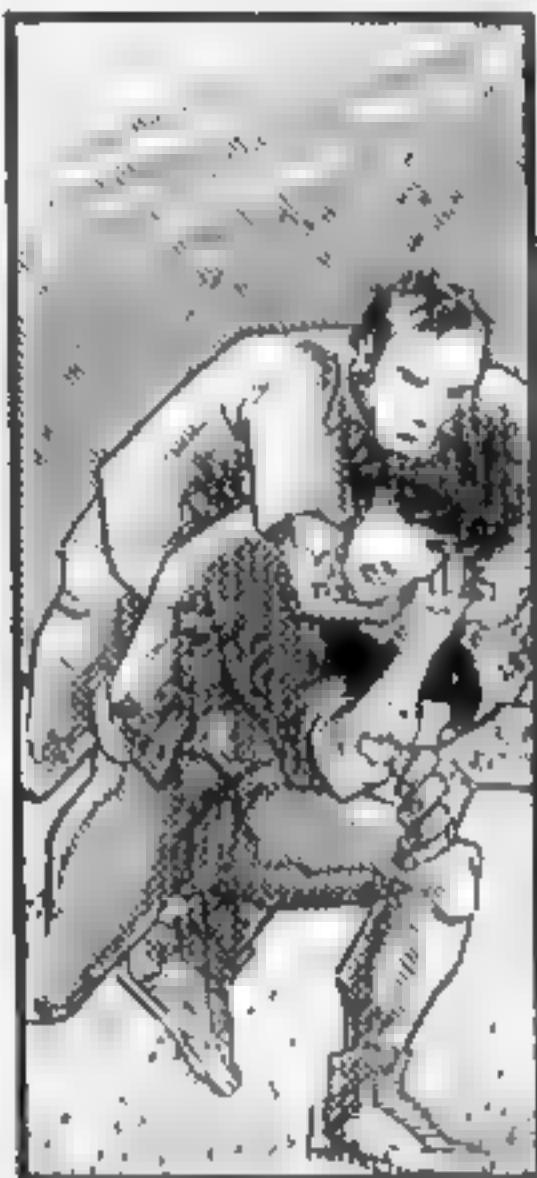


LINDO AUTO!



GRACIAS...









ES
AQUÍ?

SI...HACE TRES DIAS
ENCONTRARON 20
CADAVERES EN ESTE
LUGAR...

SEGÚN DECIAN
"VESTIDOS COMO
NINJAS"

ESTO SE
PONE
BIZARRO



QUE PUDO HABER
MATADO A 20 NINJAS
DEL PIE Y NO DEJAR
RASTRO?

TENGO UNA TEORIA
DON...Y NO ES BUENA

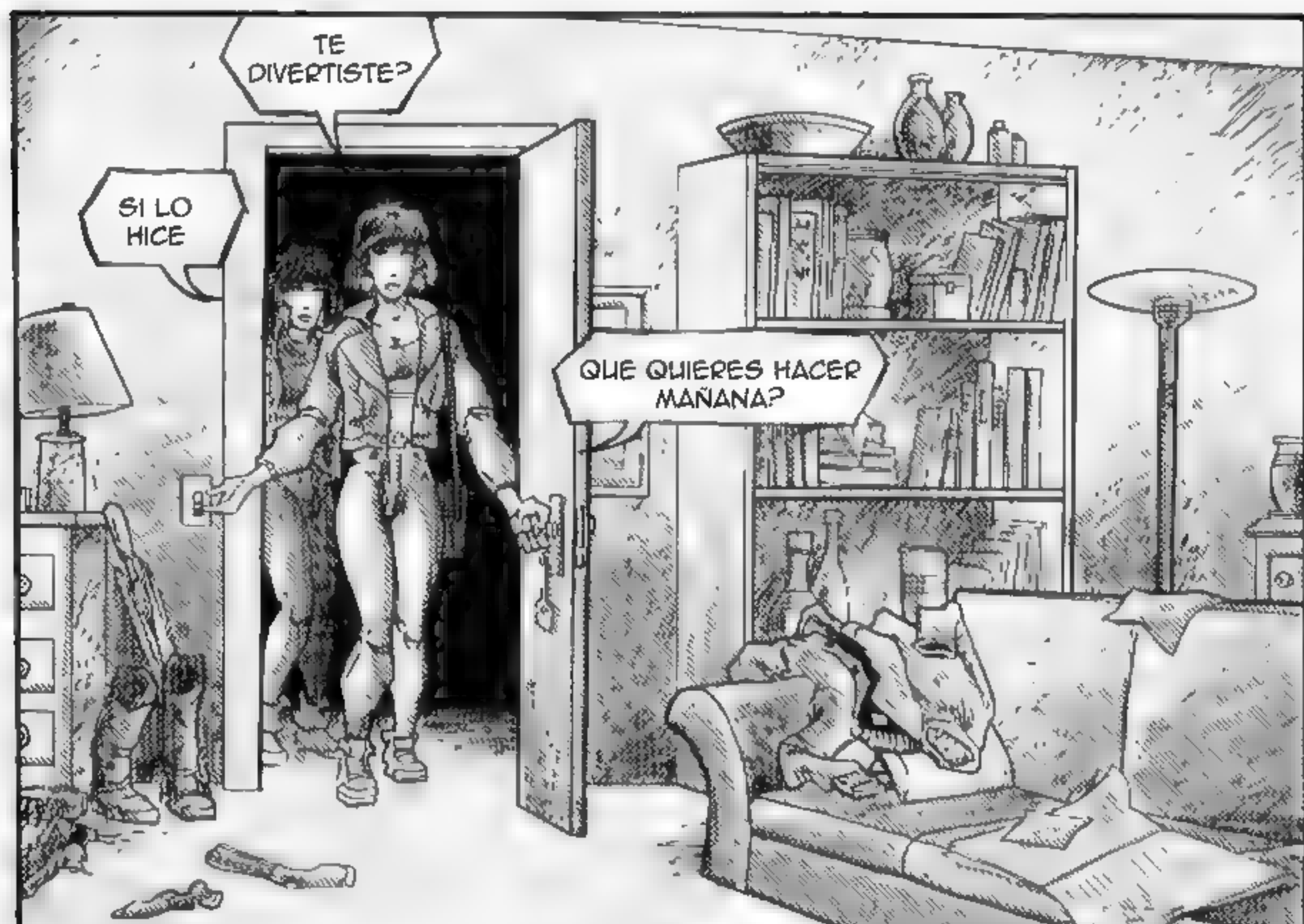


SI NO CREO QUE VEAMOS ALGO
BUENO...

ESTE RASTRO
MURIO...VAMOS A
ESCONDERNOS



RAFA TIENE
RAZON...ESTAMOS
MUY EXPUESTOS
AQUÍ



TE
DIVERTISTE?

SI LO
HICE

QUE QUIERES HACER
MAÑANA?

MM QUE DICES SI LIMPIAMOS
LA CASA...

NO, ALGO
DIVERTIDO!



LA PLAYA TAL
VEZ?

ESO ES! AGARREMOS
NUESTRAS MEJORES
ROPAS Y VAMOS!

YO
TAMBIEN



ES ALGO RARO NO
HABERTE VISTO EN
TANTO Y AHORA VIVIR
CONTIGO...



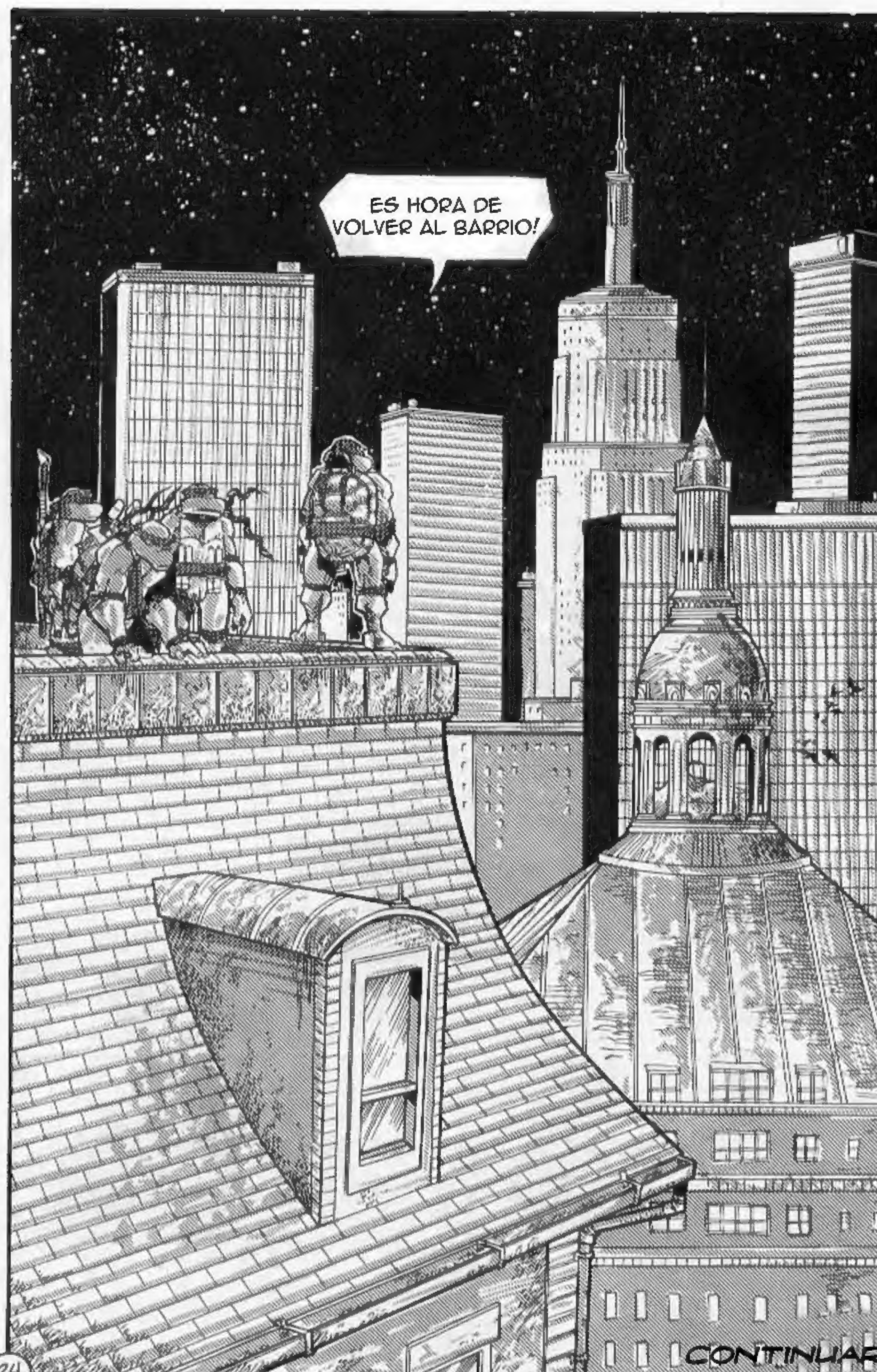
SI...ES MI CULPA POR HABERME
ALEJADO...

NO...ESTOY MUY FELIZ DE
QUE ESTES AQUI!









ES HORA DE
VOLVER AL BARRIO!

TRADUMAQUETACION:

PIPOCHOCO



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Dear Mr. Eastman and Mr. Laird:

I subscribe to Heavy Metal magazine and I've noticed that they list a "Kevin Eastman" as the publisher. That's not you by any chance, is it? I just have to know.

While I'm writing, I wish to thank you for your decision to reintroduce a continuous storyline to your series. That was what I liked most about your early stories — events happened and things changed. Afterwards, though, things kinda got stuck in a rut as you switched to one-disconnected-adventure-after-another format. Congratulations for not sitting on your laurels forever.

I just read #48. You certainly aren't resting on your laurels now! Even if it turns out that Casey didn't cause the kid's death, I'm sure he won't be viewing his vigilanteism too lightly any more.

Sincerely,

Thomas Q. Radigan
Riverside, IL

Yes indeed, the Kevin Eastman listed as publisher in the masthead of Heavy Metal is one and the same as our very own co-creator and publisher here at Mirage.

Dear Eastman and Laird:

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #48 and #49 were excellent! You two guys are back with a vengeance! I was quite interested to see Casey Jones in a whole new light. Instead of the wisecracking, semi-psychotic

vigilante I've gotten so used to, you two have shown that underneath the hockey mask and mindless bravado lies a sensitive, frightened young man. I also enjoyed the return of Nobody. I've always wondered what happened to him. Hey, maybe he can get a story or two in your new anthology title! The artwork in #48 and #49 was very good — Jim Lawson and Keith Aiken make a great art team, and Craig Farley's covers were excellent.

Robert Knaus
Walpole, MA

Gentlemen:

This is my first letter to you. I don't expect it to be published anywhere, and I don't even know who is going to read it. I've been reading Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles from issue #1, and now at issue 50 I thought I'd take a moment to send you some compliments.

I've been looking forward to the return to continuity with issue 50. When I read about your plans, I sat down and re-read all the stories again. I've enjoyed them all — everything from the silliness of Spaced Out to the seriousness of the Souls Triad — but I've been longing for the excitement, the powerful storytelling, and the Eastman/Laird artwork last seen in Return to New York. I know I'll only get one issue of Peter and Kevin's art, but I'm thrilled that the storyline is continuing. I plan to be with you guys until the Turtles grow old and pass

on, and maybe even longer if possible.

I'm also looking forward to the release of Plastron Cafe (that is the name of the anthology series, isn't it?). I have a copy of Mirage Mini-Comics and enjoy that collection a lot; hopefully Plastron Cafe will showcase more of these quality stories. I would love to see more Terrorsaurus, Commandosaurus and especially Melting Pot. I've been waiting for Melting Pot ever since you advertised it oh so long ago. Please Please Please give us Melting Pot! Don't make me beg!!

Congratulations on 50 issues of TMNT! Long live Mirage! Keep up the good work.

Jason Pettis
Cheyenne, WY

Plastron Cafe will feature most of your favorite Mirage artists — Michael Dooney, Eric Talbot, Dan Berger, Jim Lawson, Ryan Brown and of course Eastman and Laird — as well as a horde of other creators familiar to readers: Stan Sakai, Steve Bissette, Rick Veitch, Doug Wheeler, Hedden & McWeeney, to name just a few.

Dear Mirage:

I would like to begin by complimenting you on your outstanding work. I have been collecting the TMNT comics since shortly after they came out in 1985. The storylines are always great, as well as is the artistry. I am especially fond of Michael Dooney's style of drawing. His drawings look like

they have a lot of time and attention in them. My compliments Mike! I have enjoyed your comics so much in fact, that I have begun subscribing in order to keep from falling any more behind than I already have. I already have most of your comics in the basic TMNT line (excluding the micro-series, the "Tales of the TMNT" line, graphic novels, and stuff like that), and would like to get caught up completely. Especially with the "City at War" series. From the way you guys have been raving about it, you have succeeded in arousing my curiosity. And in consequence, I don't intend to miss even one issue. But I would also like to ask you a question regarding your distribution: **WHAT THE HELL HAPPENS TO ALL OF YOUR BACK ISSUES?!** Just kidding. Seriously though, I have encountered catastrophic difficulties finding some of your older issues. Talk about looking for a needle in a haystack! Compounding the problem further is that around here (Knoxville, Tennessee) we have only one major comic distributor. Which is "Clinton Cards, Comics, and Collectibles". They are also the only place around here that I've seen, who handles your comics on any kind of steady basis. And, claiming to be the largest distributor of cards and comics in the South Eastern U.S., when they don't have back issues, neither do we. The owner tells me that he hardly ever gets back issues. He tells me that most of the time you guys send him only the new comics for the month. If indeed this is the case, I really wish you

guys would start sending back issues to your distributors. Or it might even be a good idea to give readers/collectors the chance to order back issues straight from you. I am also very glad to hear that you guys are getting back to some type of continuity in your comics. I think it will be interesting to see what new directions you take the Turtles in.

Eric Baker
Farragut, TN

We've received the same complaint about back issues from quite a few readers. Our comic back issues don't usually make it to stores because distributors usually have a certain minimum amount for orders, and if they don't get it, usually they won't order the product. Well, in answer to your wishes, we have finally finished cataloguing our entire backstock inventory and it should be available through mail order this Fall.

Dear Turtle Crew:

Reading TMNT since Issue 3, I've seen the book go through some bizarre changes over the years. I'm glad to see the book again has a sense of continuity. The title has drifted far too long with no real direction. Yes, some of the guest artist/writer's interpretations of the Turtles are interesting, but I honestly feel none of them are as enjoyable as the original version of the Turtles. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

I was very disappointed to hear that Kevin and Peter will only be drawing one issue of the new Turtle storyline. Not meaning to take anything away from the

team of Lawson and Aiken, but come on! I realize you guys are busy managing the Mighty Turtle Empire, but can't you spare the time to do more than one issue of the comic that created that Empire? Please?

On a totally unrelated note, when, if ever, will Michael Dooney's Gizmo be returning from limbo? Is there any chance of Gizmo starring in another limited series, or even <GASP> getting his own book back? I know it is unlikely, but hey, I can dream...

Sincerely,

"Wild" Bill Thompson
Paxton, MA

Keep reading pal...you just may see Gizmo show up in Plastron Cafe, and beyond that, who knows? As for Eastman and Laird, yeah, they're busy maintaining the Empire, as you put it, but not too busy to stop creating altogether. In addition to not only writing and drawing issue 50, they've also plotted and scripted the entire 13-issue run of City at War. Not only that, but both creators have work featured in the upcoming Plastron Cafe (releasing in December). For the new anthology title, Kevin has been working with Rick Veitch on an ongoing Casey Jones saga that will run throughout the issues. Peter is also working on a series of stories centering around the adventures of a much older Donatello in the future.